

In July and August, 1887, Mr. McGee traveled along the fall-line from Washington to New York. For a portion of the distance he was accompanied by Major J. W. Powell. New data were collected concerning the distribution and relations of the Potomac and Columbia formations, the history of river development in the region, and the nature and origin of the fall-line.

From 1887 to June, 1893, Mr. McGee had leisure only for occasional geological observations in the vicinity of Washington, and these mainly of transient exposures.

In 1890 he prepared an extended memoir on "The Lafayette Formation" for the report of the Director of the Survey.¹ This memoir relates mainly to the Southern States, but there are included brief summaries of the characteristics of the several sedimentary formations which extend across the Coastal Plain region of Maryland, and a review of the general geologic history of the province.

In 1888 Professor William B. Clark, of the Johns Hopkins University, was requested to prepare a report upon the Eocene formations of the United States, and from that time forward devoted considerable attention to the Cretaceous and Tertiary deposits of Maryland and Virginia.²

In June, 1889, Mr. N. H. Darton was assigned to work in the Coastal Plain region in Maryland, District of Columbia and Virginia. He spent the next five years in almost continuous field work in this portion of the province. The preliminary work was a reconnaissance in a boat along the shores of the Potomac, St. Mary's, Patuxent, South, Severn, Patapsco and Sassafras rivers, and the head of Chesapeake Bay, with Mr. F. M. Smith as assistant. Then a detailed examination was made of the East Washington quadrangle, which was mapped in greater part.

In the spring of 1890 considerable progress was made in mapping the Coastal Plain formations in the Baltimore quadrangle, on which the crystalline rocks had been mapped by Dr. G. H. Williams. In

¹ Twelfth Ann. Rept. U. S. Geol. Survey, 1891, pp. 347-521, pls. 32-41.

² Correlation Papers—Eocene. Bull. U. S. Geol. Survey No. 83, 1891, pp. 43-48.